

**From:** Rate my Professors [<mailto:noreply@ratemyprofessors.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 06, 2016 1:54 PM

**Subject:** NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

## RATE MY PROFESSORS

Dear Valued RateMyProfessors.com Registered User,

### What Happened?

On December 24, 2015, RateMyProfessors.com first noticed anomalous activity associated with one of the backend systems used by RateMyProfessors.com. RateMyProfessors.com investigated and subsequently learned that, on or about November 26, 2015, hackers gained access to a decommissioned version of the RateMyProfessors.com website ("Decommissioned Site") by exploiting a vulnerability in an Internet facing application within the Decommissioned Site. These hackers acquired email addresses and passwords for some registered users of the active RateMyProfessors.com website ("Site"). We regret that your email address and password for the Site may be among those affected. Please be assured that we have not seen indications that the credentials were used without authorization or that ratings submitted to the Site were acquired as part of this incident.

It is important to note that, if you used the Site only as a non-registered user, no information about you and no ratings you submitted were implicated in the incident.

### What Information Was Involved?

The email address you used to register on RateMyProfessors.com, your password for the Site, and the date you registered with us were involved in the incident.

The Site does not collect payment card information, social security number, social insurance number, or driver's license number so none of that type of data was involved in the incident.

Unless it is in your email address, we do not believe names were part of the fields acquired in the incident, nor were dates of birth. Once again, please be assured that we have not seen indications that ratings submitted to the Site were acquired as part of this incident. Nevertheless, we take this incident seriously, and we advise you to remain vigilant to protect your personal information.

Again, if you used the Site only as a non-registered user, as many users do, no information about you and no ratings you submitted were implicated in the incident.

We understand that security and privacy are important to you and that too is our top concern.

### **What We Are Doing**

We promptly blocked the IP addresses from which the attack originated, removed Internet access to the Decommissioned Site, and initiated a password change requirement for all potentially affected registered users logging into the Site. We also reported the incident to U.S. law enforcement and are cooperating with them to investigate this illegal activity.

### **What You Can Do**

For your protection, the next time you attempt to log in to the Site, you will be asked to change your password. This protocol commenced on December 30, 2015. We strongly encourage you to immediately log into the Site to change your password if you have not already done so.

If you used your RateMyProfessors.com password on any other site or service, we strongly encourage you to immediately change your password on the other sites and services. We also encourage you to review guidance available from the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) about choosing passwords wisely, available at <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST04-002>.

Criminals can get your email address from many different sources. It is always possible they could use your email address to send you fraudulent emails that appear to come from a reputable source to try and trick you into providing confidential information (this is commonly called "phishing"). For more information on phishing and on how to avoid being a victim of phishing, please see <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST04-014>.

It is also prudent to remain vigilant about your personal information more generally by reviewing account statements you have with other companies and by checking your credit report from one or more of the national credit reporting companies periodically. Following such reviews, you should promptly report any suspicious activity or suspected identity theft to the proper law enforcement authorities.

### **For More Information.**

If you have any questions, please contact us toll free at 855-842-2665 or at [security@ratemyprofessors-ques.com](mailto:security@ratemyprofessors-ques.com). For more information, you may also visit us at [ratemyprofessors.com](http://ratemyprofessors.com).

Sincerely,

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